

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fine feldspathic earthenware comprising a body and a glaze layer covering surfaces of said body, said body having water absorption percentage of not lower than 3% and lower than 15% and including an annular bottom formed on a bottom portion of the body, wherein an improvement comprises:

 said glaze layer being absent on a surface of said annular bottom; and

 said surface of said annular bottom being covered with an annular vitrified layer which has substantially no water absorbing property.

2. A fine feldspathic earthenware according to claim 1, wherein said annular vitrified layer has a radially inner end portion and a radially outer end portion which are covered with said glaze layer.

3. A fine feldspathic earthenware according to claim 1, wherein said annular vitrified layer is formed of a composition which has a lower degree of refractoriness than said body and which is vitrified when said body is biscuit-fired.

4. A fine feldspathic earthenware according to claim 1, wherein said annular vitrified layer is formed of a composition including a component which is vitrified at a

temperature within a range of 1100-1300°C.

5. A fine feldspathic earthenware according to claim 1, wherein said annular vitrified layer has a thickness of not smaller than 1 μ m and smaller than 0.5mm.

6. A fine feldspathic earthenware according to claim 1, wherein a difference between average coefficients of thermal expansion of said body and said annular vitrified layer is within a range of $\pm 3 \times 10^{-6}$.

7. A fine feldspathic earthenware according to claim 1, wherein said annular vitrified layer is formed from a composition including 45-80% by weight of SiO₂, 10-40% by weight of Al₂O₃, and a total of 3-15% by weight of K₂O and Na₂O.

8. A fine feldspathic earthenware according to claim 1, which is used as a tableware.

9. A process of manufacturing a fine feldspathic earthenware comprising a body and a glaze layer covering surfaces of said body, said body having water absorption percentage of not lower than 3% and lower than 15% and including an annular bottom formed on a bottom portion of the body, said process comprising:

a forming step of forming a precursor of said body such that said precursor of said body has a precursor of said annular

bottom;

a coating step of coating a surface of said precursor of said annular bottom with a composition having a lower degree of refractoriness than that of said precursor of said body; and

a biscuit-firing step of biscuit-firing said precursor of said body with said composition covering said surface of said precursor of said annular bottom, whereby said body is formed with said annular bottom the surface of which is covered with an annular vitrified layer which is formed of said composition and which has substantially no water absorbing property.

10. A process according to claim 9, further comprising a step of positioning a plurality of pieces of said precursor of said body in a stack such that adjacent ones of said pieces are spaced apart from each other by a refractory setter, and wherein said pieces positioned in the stack are biscuit-fired in said biscuit-firing step.